

MEMORANDUM

TO: PESB Members

FROM: Joe Koski, Policy & Research Analyst, PESB
David Brenna, Legislative & Policy Coordinator, PESB
Jeanne Harmon, Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession

DATE: September 2, 2009

SUBJECT: TAB 15 – Presentation and Discussion: Establishing a “Master Teacher”
Designation per ESHB 2261
September 24, 9:15-10:15 am

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- ESHB 2261 Section 402 (b) declares that “By January 1, 2010, the professional educator standards board shall adopt a definition of master teacher, with a comparable level of increased competency between professional certification level and master level as between professional certification level and national board certification. Within the definition established by the professional educator standards board, teachers certified through the national board for professional teaching standards shall be considered master teachers.”
- In August 2009, the PESB, in collaboration with the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession, convened a work group of predominately teachers and other educators familiar with the National Board Teacher Certification process to formulate an equivalent process and definition of master teacher for PESB consideration in November.
- At the August meeting, the work was framed as furthering Washington’s teacher continuum from teacher preparation to residency teacher to professional teacher to master teacher. The work group reviewed the Legislation, considered research describing teacher distribution, examined other states and their work in this area, as well as pulled from their own knowledge, experiences and expertise. Using all of this information, the work group discussed a definition that would build from the professional certification standards, but require a significantly higher level of demonstrated skills and knowledge that would distinguish master teachers as the highest performing teachers. The work group will also address eligibility and assessment considerations.

- This is a preliminary report and is informational only. In November, the board will receive the work group's recommendations for master teacher and will adopt a definition that will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in January, 2010.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOME

The PESB will receive an update from the work group and discuss elements in consideration for a Master Teacher definition as preparation for action in either November or January.

Work Plan Goal:

Goal 4 – An agreed upon and widely understood system for review and revision of high and relevant preparation standards and certification requirements for all educators.

Ends Policy: All Washington educators will be prepared and certified according to high and rigorous standards to ensure they are effective and students meet or exceed state learning goals.